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CHILE:

Crackdown To Continue

President Pinochet will not let up against his opponents in the wake of last month's attempt on his life, but he will face increasing terrorism and growing resistance to his hardline measures.

Security forces continue to search the slums and claim to have dismantled some terrorist cells. Pinochet maintains he has a popular mandate for the harsh measures, but much of the public in the south—a traditional government stronghold—is skeptical of his motives and fears that government repression is further polarizing the country.

moderate opposition leaders have condemned both leftist violence and the state of siege, while repeating their willingness to talk with the government about a democratic transition. They have endorsed the decision by moderate student groups to shun cooperation with the Communists in several major universities.

Comment: Pinochet will continue to suppress both the moderate and radical opposition, at least until the Chilean summer—traditionally a time of political inactivity—begins in mid-December. His sagging credibility in the south, however, indicates he will face increasing difficulty in exploiting terrorism to regain support.

Moderates will press for a dialogue with the government to offset Pinochet's efforts to portray them as de facto Communist allies. They will also try to organize their own peaceful anti-Pinochet protests to avoid losing supporters to the far left and to maintain credibility as an opposition force.

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